be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of internal and external debt in the beginning and at the end of Seventh Plan;

(b) what is the debt service ratio at present;

(c) whether the danger of debt trap, both internal and external is real; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to check the drift towards internal and external debt trap?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The amounts of internal and external debt outstanding at the beginning and at the end of Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) are as follows:

(Rs. crores)

	Seventh Plan		
	Outstanding at the beginning	Outstanding at the end	
*Internal debt	96505	238096	(RE)
External debt (at the prevailing exchange rate) .	35725	80132	(Provisional)

*Comprises internal debt and non-marketable quasi borrowings like small savings, provident funds deposits, etc.

(b) The debt service ratio in 1989-90 of external debt as a proportion to exports and gross invisible earnings is estimated at 21.6%.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Government has nevertheless taken measures to maximise revenue receipts and contain expenditure growth so as to minimise the dependence on borrowed funds for financing expenditure. The level of country's external debt and the likely burden of its servicing are constantly kept in view to ensure that they remain within prudent limits. To reduce the dependence on external financing a number of steps have been taken to boost exports and increase invisible earnings, contain imports, improve disbursements of committed aid/loans

Performance of export houses

1861. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether majority of the eligible recognised Export Houses nurtured as frontline export agencies by Government have failed as useful foreign exchange earners for the country;

(b) if so, what are the names of these Export Houses together with the last three years' exports in terms of U. S. dollars and rupees; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to achieve competition in exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has taken a series of steps for export promotion. These are designed to make exports commercially viable through upgrading industrial efficiency, ensuring supply of raw materials at competitive prices, strengthening the infrastructure and simplifying the procedural